Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

2390. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi, the National Capital and other metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras are considered to be worst polluted areas; if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

(b) whether Government have got a plan to make Delhi a clean and pollution free city; if so, the measures taken and by when it is proposed to be achieved; and

(c) whether Government have framed a policy to make the country, particularly the cosmopolitan towns, pollution free; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) As per the report prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board there is a deterioration in water quality near outfalls close to urban settlements owing to an increase in domestic wastes. A deterioration in the air quality is observed in metropolitan cities because of an increase in vehicular pollution.

The steps taken by the Government to control pollution are as follows :

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) A network of ambient and water quality monitoring stations has been set up in metropolitan cities.

(iii) Metropolitan cities have been notified as Air Pollution Control Areas.

(iv) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards within a time-frame.

(vi) Scheme for construction/augmentation of sewage and drainage system and for treatment of sewage have been taken under the Ganga Action Plan of the Central Government.

(vii) A scheme have been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

(viii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.

(ix) Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified for 1995 under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards with effect from 1st March, 1990.

(x) Public awareness campaigns on vehicular pollution have been launched.

Environmental Problems of the Konkan Railway Project

2391. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :
SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finally resolved the environmental problems of the Konkan Railway Project;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, what are the difficulties in this regard;

(d) whether the Committee constituted by the Ministry on the subject has submitted its report;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon; and

(f) if not, by when the report is likely to be finalised ?